



March for Life eyes Congress for post-Roe abortion limits



Page 2

People participate in the March for Life rally Friday, Jan. 20, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

Aruba was this year's host for the judicial four-party consultation in the Kingdom of the Netherlands



Page 11

San Nicolas and Oranjestad are the focus points during the Royal Visit



Page 9

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SINGER
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MONDAY

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6:30pm - 8:30pm

TUESDAY

JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30pm - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY

EDDIE KROON
SINGER
6:30pm - 8:30pm

THURSDAY

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30pm - 8:30pm

FRIDAY

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SATURDAY

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March for Life eyes Congress for post-Roe abortion limits



People participate in the March for Life rally in front of the Washington Monument, Friday, Jan. 20, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

Continued from Front

By **ASHRAF KHALIL and CALVIN WOODWARD**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A half century after *Roe v. Wade*, March for Life supporters on Friday celebrated the Supreme Court's dismantling of that constitutional right to abortion and heralded the political struggle set loose by the court's decision. President Joe Biden pledged to do all in his limited power to restore core abortion rights.

The first March for Life since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in June came with a new focus. Instead of concentrating their attention on the court, the marchers vowed to push for action from the building directly across the street: the U.S. Capitol.

Congress, movement leaders say, must be warned against making any attempt to curtail the multiple anti-abortion laws imposed last year in a dozen states. Thousands spread across a section of the National Mall for the event, the Capitol Building in sight.

"For nearly 50 years, you have marched to proclaim the fundamental dignity of women, of their children and of life itself," Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch, whose office argued the case that over-

turned *Roe v. Wade*, told the crowd. "But this year is different." Indeed, with the constitutional victory behind them and lawmakers now the ones to be persuaded, marchers took a new route along the western face of the Capitol, to their usual destination between that complex and the court.

"I am the post-Roe generation," read one sign. "Excommunicate Pro-Choice Catholics," said another. Banners proclaimed "Love Them Both," meaning mother and child.

Tammy Milligan came dressed as "patriot Wonder Woman" and stood out in the crowd. She said she never thought *Roe v. Wade* would be overruled in her lifetime, but the fight doesn't stop there. "We want it to be unthinkable for a woman to have an abortion," she said.

Biden offered his counterpoint in a proclamation recognizing Sunday — Jan. 22 — as the 50th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. "Never before has the Court taken away a right so fundamental to Americans," his statement said. "In doing so, it put the health and lives of women across this Nation at risk."

He said he would continue to use his executive authority in any way he can to preserve abortion protec-

tions while urging Congress to enshrine such rights in law. The crowd appeared smaller than in past years but bore multiple hallmarks of previous marches in the enthusiasm of the gathering, the large numbers of young people from Catholic schools around the country and plenty of banners representing different churches and religious orders. "The struggle has changed," said Marion Landry, 68, who came from North Carolina with her husband, Arthur, 91, for the sixth time. "In some ways you don't have that central focus anymore. Now it's back to the states."

Mike Miller, 59, who came from Boston, has attended at least 15 such marches over the years. "There's still a lot of work to do," he said. "This is only one step and in the next step, education becomes the biggest thing."

From the stage, in a move to show that the anti-abortion movement crosses political parties and racial groups, Teneé McGee, a Black Democratic state representative from Connecticut, addressed the crowd.

"I stand in place of the pro-life Black women across the globe who are suffering in silence," she said. The crowd roared.

House Speaker Kevin Mc-

Carthy offered support in a statement pledging that the new Republican majority will stand with abortion-rights opponents.

"While others raise their voices in rage and hatred, you march with prayers, goodwill, fellowship, compassion, and devotion in defense of the most defenseless in this country," McCarthy said.

Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund, said the march is "a somber reminder of the millions of lives lost to abortion in the past 50 years, but also a celebration of how far we have come and where we as a movement need to focus our effort as we enter this new era in our quest to protect life."

Some movement leaders also hope to plant seeds in Congress for a potential federal abortion restriction down the line. Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of SBA Pro-Life America, said she envisions an eventual "federal minimum standard" cut-off line such as 13 weeks of pregnancy after which abortion would not be permitted in any state. Dannenfelser's scenario would still leave individual states free to impose their own, stricter measures, including a total ban.

That last ambition is an admitted longshot since even if it passes the newly Republican-controlled House, it would most likely fail in the Democratic-held Senate.

"We know it's not going to happen this session, but this is the beginning," Dannenfelser said. "It's (Congress') responsibility to listen to the will of the people."

In the absence of *Roe v. Wade*'s federal protections, abortion rights have become a state-by-state patchwork.

Since June, near-total bans on abortion have been implemented in Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia. Legal challenges are pending against several of those bans.

Elective abortions also are unavailable in Wisconsin, due to legal uncertainties faced by abortion clinics, and in North Dakota, where the lone clinic relocated to Minnesota.

Bans passed by lawmakers in Ohio, Indiana and Wyoming have been blocked by state courts while legal challenges are pending. And in South Carolina, the state Supreme Court on Jan. 5 struck down a ban on abortion after six weeks, ruling the restriction violates a state constitutional right to privacy.

But other states have witnessed unexpected push-back on the issue. Voters in Kansas and Kentucky rejected constitutional amendments that would have declared there is no right to abortion; Michigan voters approved an amendment enshrining the right to abortion in the state constitution.

According to an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll conducted in July, 53% of U.S. adults said they disapproved of the Supreme Court's repeal of *Roe*, while 30% approved. The same poll found that majorities think abortion should usually be illegal after the first trimester of pregnancy.

Anti-abortion activists also have their eye on the 2024 presidential elections and are essentially vetting prospective candidates over their views on the issue. Dannenfelser said she met recently with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a potential leading Republican candidate, and came away "incredibly impressed," but said it was still too early for her organization to endorse anyone.

She predicted that there will be some "fault lines" among Republican presidential contenders over abortion rights and protections, but warned that any candidate perceived as being soft on the issue will have "disqualified him or herself as a presidential candidate in our eyes, and having done so has very little chance of winning the nomination." □

Supreme Court leak report findings: Lax security, loose lips

By **JESSICA GRESKO and MARK SHERMAN**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eight months, 126 formal interviews and a 23-page report later, the Supreme Court said it has failed to discover who leaked a draft of the court's opinion overturning abortion rights.

The report released by the court Thursday is the apparent culmination of an investigation ordered by Chief Justice John Roberts a day after the May leak of the draft to Politico. At the time, Roberts called the leak an "egregious breach of trust."

The leak touched off protests at justices' homes and raised concerns about their security. And it came more than a month before the final opinion by Justice Samuel Alito was released and the court formally announced it was overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

The report also offers a window into the court's internal processes. It acknowledges that the coronavirus pandemic, which expanded the ability of people to



Light illuminates part of the Supreme Court building on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2022.

work from home, "as well as gaps in the Court's security policies, created an environment where it was too easy to remove sensitive information from the building and the Court's IT networks."

The report recommends changes so that it's harder for a leak to happen in the

future.

Some questions and answers about the report:

THE INVESTIGATION DIDN'T FIND THE LEAKER, WHAT DID IT FIND?

Lax security and loose lips. Too many people have access to certain sensitive information, the report concluded, and the court's

policies on information security are outdated. The court can't actively track, for example, who is handling and accessing highly sensitive information.

Beyond that, some people interviewed by federal investigators called in to help with the probe acknowledged they didn't scru-

pulously follow the court's confidentiality policies. In some cases, employees acknowledged "telling their spouses about the draft opinion or vote count," the report said.

The leak doesn't appear to have been the result of a hack, but the report said investigators could not rule out that the opinion was inadvertently disclosed, "for example, by being left in a public space either inside or outside the building."

HOW THOROUGH WAS THE INVESTIGATION?

Investigators conducted 126 formal interviews of 97 employees. They looked into connections between employees and reporters, including those at Politico. They looked at call logs of personal phones. They looked at printer logs. They even did a fingerprint analysis of "an item relevant to the investigation."

Every person who was interviewed signed a sworn statement that they were not the source of the leak. Lying about that could violate a federal law on false statements. □

Associated Press

Feds try to improve fishing data with new monitoring rules

By **PATRICK WHITTLE**

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Changes to U.S. rules about the monitoring of Northeast commercial fishing activities are going into effect this month with a goal of providing more accurate information about some of the nation's oldest fisheries. The U.S. mandates observers to work onboard fishing boats to collect data and make sure fishermen adhere to rules and quotas. The relationship between fishermen and observers is sometimes difficult, and fishermen have long complained the monitoring program heaps costs on them. The National Marine Fisheries Service has adopted new monitoring rules for Northeast fishermen of groundfish, like haddock and flounder, to try to im-

prove the accuracy of the data. The fishermen harvest some of the most popular seafood species in the country, and the data are used to craft fishing regulations. The monitoring rules include a plan to reimburse the fishing industry for at-sea monitoring costs in the 2022 fishing year. It also includes a plan to increase the percentage of fishing trips that include monitoring coverage from 80% to 100% for the next four years. That rule would hold as long as funds appropriated by Congress can support government and industry costs, the National Marine Fisheries Service said.

The expansion of at-sea monitoring has generated some pushback from fishing interests. The Northeast Seafood Coalition, which represents commercial

fishing groups, argued that more information was needed to show that increased monitoring would improve management of fisheries.

The fisheries service disagreed, and said the increased monitoring is especially important because some valuable species of fish are in decline. The agency is in the midst of a drive to rebuild the collapsed Atlantic cod stock, for example.

"Improved monitoring will contribute to determining the level of interaction between the fishery and stocks," the fisheries service said in a response to industry concerns that was published in the Federal Register.

The new monitoring plan also includes the approval of new electronic monitor-

ing technologies to serve as an alternative to workers on board, the fisheries service said. The plan also requires periodic evaluation of the monitoring program. Several conservation groups came out in support of expanding use of electronic monitoring. The Conservation Law Founda-

tion cited the method as a way to reduce the cost of monitoring.

The new plan doesn't require adoption of electronic monitoring, but rather provides it as a choice. Several companies are currently looking to help U.S. fishermen comply with the new rules using new tech. □



Gulls follow a commercial fishing boat as crewmen haul in their catch in the Gulf of Maine, in this Jan. 17, 2012 file photo.

Associated Press

LGBTQ people, allies dodge \$1,500 fines in North Dakota

By **TRISHA AHMED**
Associated Press/Report for America

As more than a dozen states consider passing anti-transgender legislation this year, North Dakota lawmakers rejected a bill Friday that would have made people pay \$1,500 each time they refer to themselves or others with gender pronouns different from the ones they were assigned at birth.

"The main purpose of the bill was to eliminate state funding for entities including education that would promote, allow or support the ideology of transgenderism," said Republican sponsor Sen. David Clemens, of West Fargo. Others testified at a Wednesday Senate Judiciary Committee hearing that the bill is designed to discriminate, and could impact the state's behavioral health providers.

The vote tally came to 39 senators against the bill and eight in favor.

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee had said they agreed with the bill's purpose, but that it



In this Feb. 7, 2019 file photo, pedestrians walk across the Bismarck, N.D. campus. The state Capitol building is seen in the background.

was poorly written and would be difficult to enforce. It would also have harmed people who do not identify as transgender and would possibly violate First Amendment rights, they said.

Christina Sambor of the North Dakota Human Rights Coalition testified

against the bill Wednesday. "Its very purpose is gender-based discrimination," Sambor said.

Reed Eliot Rahrlich, who identifies as transgender, added that the bill is "a poorly thought out affront to human rights."

Dan Cramer, a psychologist and clinical director at the

state Department of Health and Human Services, said it would create "significant problems" for human service centers in meeting basic accreditation standards and funding requirements. Those standards prohibit discrimination against a client's sexual orientation and gender identity.

Associated Press

Republican Sen. Janne Myrdal, of Edinburg, voted against the bill, but said she plans to support others that align with her belief "that God gives you your identity and your sex at conception."

North Dakota lawmakers will consider other bills this session that would obstruct transgender and non-binary people from using their preferred pronouns, criminalize doctors providing gender-affirming care, deter transgender youth from joining school sports teams, penalize drag-show performers and more.

More than two dozen bills seeking to restrict transgender health care access have been introduced in at least 11 other states: Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Virginia for the legislative sessions beginning in early 2023. Bills targeting other transgender issues have been filed in many of the same states and are expected in several others with GOP majorities. □

Judge fines Trump, lawyer for 'frivolous' Clinton lawsuit

By **JILL COLVIN**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A Florida judge sanctioned former President Donald Trump and one of his attorneys, ordering them to pay nearly \$1 million for filing what he said was a bogus lawsuit against Trump's 2016 rival Hillary Clinton and others.

In a blistering filing on Thursday, U.S. District Judge Donald M. Middlebrooks accused Trump of a "pattern of abuse of the courts" for filing frivolous lawsuits for political purposes, which he said "undermines the rule of law" and "amounts to obstruction of justice."

"Here, we are confronted with a lawsuit that should never have been filed, which was completely frivolous, both factually and

legally, and which was brought in bad faith for an improper purpose," he wrote.

Citing Trump's recent legal action against the Pulitzer Prize board, New York's attorney general, big tech companies and CNN, he described Trump as "a prolific and sophisticated litigant" who uses the courts "to seek revenge on political adversaries."

"He is the mastermind of strategic abuse of the judicial process," he wrote.

The ruling required Trump and his attorney, Alina Habba, to pay nearly \$938,000 to the defendants in the case.

A spokesman for Trump and Habba did not immediately respond to requests for comment late Thursday.

Middlebrooks in September dismissed the suit Trump had filed against Clinton, former top FBI officials and the Democratic Party, rejecting the former president's claims that they and others conspired to sink his winning presidential campaign by alleging ties to Russia.

The lawsuit had named as defendants Clinton and some of her top advisers, as well as former FBI Director James Comey and other FBI officials involved in the investigation into whether Trump's 2016 presidential campaign had coordinated with Russia to sway the outcome of the election.

He said then the suit contained "glaring structural deficiencies" and that many of the "characteriza-



Former President Donald Trump announces he is running for president for the third time as he smiles while speaking at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Fla., Nov. 15, 2022.

Associated Press

tions of events are implausible."

In the wake of the sanctions, Trump on Friday withdrew his lawsuit against New York Attorney General Letitia James. The case, in federal court in Florida, had also been before Middlebrooks.

Trump sued James in November in response to her

lawsuit alleging he and his company misled banks and others about the value of assets in a practice she dubbed "The art of the steal."

Trump, a Republican, also sought to prevent James, a Democrat, from having any oversight over the family trust that controls his company. □

U.K. judge rejects Uyghur bid to halt Xinjiang cotton imports

LONDON (AP) — A British judge on Friday rejected a lawsuit that accused the U.K. government of allowing the import of cotton products associated with forced labor in China's Xinjiang region — though he acknowledged there were "widespread abuses" in the region's cotton industry. High Court justice Ian Dove ruled against a Uyghur organization and a human rights group who claimed the government unlawfully failed to investigate conditions in which cotton was produced.

The far-western Xinjiang region is a major global supplier of cotton, but rights groups have long alleged that the crop is picked and processed by China's Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslim minorities in a widespread, state-sanctioned system of forced labor. The judge agreed with the U.K. government that there are problems meeting the standard of evidence needed for criminal investigation and prosecution. In a written judgment, he said the absence of specific evidence meant there "would be little if any purpose to be served by pursuing an investigation which would



Media wait outside the High Court in London, on March 18, 2021.

not bear fruit in the form of prosecutions or seizures." He added that his ruling "does not in any way undermine the striking consensus in the evidence that there are clear and widespread abuses in the cotton industry" in Xinjiang, "involving human rights violations and the exploitation of forced labor."

The judge noted that the U.K. government has said it may open an investigation

if new information emerges.

The case, brought by the Munich-based World Uyghur Congress and the Global Legal Action Network, a nonprofit organization, is one of several legal challenges aimed at pressing the U.K. and European Union to follow the lead of the United States, where a law took effect last year to ban all cotton products suspected of being made

in Xinjiang.

Rights groups argue that the scale of China's rights violations in Xinjiang which the U.N. says may amount to crimes against humanity means that numerous international fashion brands are at high risk of using cotton tainted by forced labor and other rights abuses.

Researchers and advocacy groups estimate 1 million or more people from Uyghur and other minority

groups have been swept into detention camps in Xinjiang, where many say they were tortured, sexually assaulted and forced to abandon their language and religion. The organizations say the camps, along with forced labor and draconian birth control policies, are a sweeping crackdown on Xinjiang's minorities.

China denies the allegations and argues its policies in Xinjiang are aimed at quashing extremism.

World Uyghur Congress President Dolkun Isa said the court ruling was "greatly disappointing." The Global Legal Action Network said it was considering whether to appeal.

"It's deeply frustrating that, despite the defendants and the court accepting the overwhelming evidence of the ongoing atrocities in Xinjiang and within the cotton industry connected to the U.K., the result of this judgment is that the U.K. government faces no accountability for its refusal to effectively deal with imports of atrocity crime goods," said Siobhán Allen, a senior lawyer with the network. □

Associated Press

Thailand holds suspect in \$100 million deli case

By **TASSANEE VEJPONGSA** and **GRANT PECK**
Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — A suspect wanted in connection with an alleged stock manipulation scheme that led a small New Jersey delicatessen to be listed as a public company worth \$100 million has agreed to his voluntary extradition to the United States after being arrested last week on the resort island of Phuket, a Thai legal official said Friday.

Peter Coker Jr. is sought by U.S. authorities on charges of fraud and shares manipulation in connection with two companies, Home-

town International and E-Waste Corp, that had been traded over the counter. Two other men indicted on the same charges, Peter Coker Sr., and James Patten, were arrested in the United States last year. A warrant was issued for the arrest of Coker Jr., a partner at a financial services company in Hong Kong.

The Bangkok law firm representing Coker Jr. did not immediately respond to phoned requests for comment about the case.

The alleged illegal activities came to light in 2021, when media reports surfaced that Hometown International, whose sole as-

set was a delicatessen in Paulsboro, New Jersey, had a valuation of about \$100 million.

The anomaly was initially publicized by David Einhorn, a hedge fund manager, who joked in a letter cautioning his clients about the company that "The pastrami must be amazing."

The three indicted men were accused of trading shares of Hometown International and E-Waste Corp back and forth among a small group of investors to pump up the price. The U.S. District Court in New Jersey indictment alleges that they intended to merge



Peter Coker Jr., left, is issued search warrants from police at his villa on the southern resort island of Phuket, Thailand, Jan. 11, 2023.

Associated Press

with a private company in order to draw the attention of public investors and sell off their own stock at the inflated prices.

Thai police said U.S. officials informed them of the 54-year-old Coker Jr.'s pos-

sible entry into Thailand in December last year, and he was tracked to his residence near a popular tourist spot of Surin beach in Phuket, for which he signed a one-year-lease. He was arrested Jan. 11. □

Japan refiles request to list divisive gold mine on UNESCO

By **MARI YAMAGUCHI**

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan has formally resubmitted documents seeking to obtain UNESCO World Heritage recognition for a controversial former gold mine that has added to diplomatic frictions with South Korea over Japanese colonization of the Korean Peninsula and its wartime actions. Japan's earlier hope to get the Sado Island mine listed as a World Heritage site this year was delayed because the original documents filed were insufficient and required more information. Japan submitted updated documents on Thursday. The mine in northern Japan operated for nearly 400 years and was once the world's largest gold producer before closing in 1989.

Uncertainty remains over its possible recognition by UNESCO.

Despite Japan's push, a nomination meeting planned in Russia last June was postponed due to Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, and another meeting has not been set.

South Korea has opposed the registration because of Japan's wartime abuse of Korean laborers. Seoul has said some of the Koreans



The logo of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is seen during the 39th session of the General Conference at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017.

Associated Press

brought to Japan during its 1910-1945 colonization of the Korean Peninsula were put to forced labor at the mine.

"Japan will have full discussions with South Korea and other related countries so that the Sado gold mine will be registered as a World Heritage site and its incredible value as cultural heritage is highly regarded," Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi told reporters Fri-

day.

Historians say Japan used hundreds of thousands of Korean laborers, including those forcibly brought from the Korean Peninsula, at mines and factories to make up for labor shortages, as most working-age men were sent to battlefronts across Asia and the Pacific.

Relations between Tokyo and Seoul have hit their lowest point in years over

South Korean court rulings upholding compensation demands by former forced laborers used by Japanese companies before and during World War II the issue Japan says was settled under the 1965 normalization treaty. The two sides are currently discussing ways to resolve the deadlock, including a South Korean proposal for a fund.

South Korea said it "regrets" that Japan submitted a

nomination for the Sado gold mines without taking steps to address Seoul's complaint over another historical site in Nagasaki with a similar background, urging Tokyo to do that first.

"The Korean government will continue to make efforts together with the international community including UNESCO so that the full history which contains the painful history of people who were forced to work during wartime can be reflected," South Korea's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The town and Niigata prefectural sites praise the Sado Island mine for mining technology development before and after industrialization but do not mention its link to wartime Korean laborers.

After an earlier letter of recommendation to nominate the mine to UNESCO last year was found insufficient, Japan sent an interim document at the end of September and a formal version on Thursday.

UNESCO had requested additional information about sections of a former waterway used to collect gold dust, but the details were mostly technical and not related to divisive views over wartime history. □

U.S. Virgin Islands authorizes recreational use of marijuana

By **DÁNICA COTO**

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— The U.S. Virgin Islands has

authorized the recreational and sacramental use of marijuana for anyone 21 and older, joining several

nations across the socially conservative Caribbean that have relaxed their cannabis laws.

The move has been several years in the making, with U.S. Virgin Islands officials traveling to Colorado to meet with cultivators, manufacturers, law enforcement and others to learn about the industry before Gov. Albert Bryan Jr. signed the bill Wednesday. "We are bringing the opportunities to you, but you must also do your part to seize these opportunities," Bryan said, referring to the cultivation, manufacture and sale of marijuana in the U.S. territory.

Bryan added that his ad-

ministration will expunge the records of those convicted of simple cannabis possession if they are eligible, saying that some 300 people in the U.S. territory of 105,000 inhabitants have been convicted in the last 20 years.

"It is my goal to make sure many of us who have been negatively impacted by the criminalization of cannabis are afforded every opportunity to participate in this new and legal cannabis industry," he said, adding that the government will provide entrepreneurship and job training. The U.S. Virgin Islands previously approved marijuana for medicinal use in 2019.

The new law allows those 21 and older to possess up to 2 ounces of marijuana, a half ounce of concentrate and 1 ounce of products such as edibles for recreational, sacramental and other uses.

Medical marijuana patients are allowed to possess up to 4 ounces of cannabis, 1 ounce of concentrate and 2 ounces of products.

Under the new measure, cultivation permits will be awarded to those who use marijuana for sacramental purposes. Dispensaries will apply a tax of at least 18% on all sales, although medical marijuana patients are exempt, according to the newly approved law. □



A map of cannabis legalization in the U.S. glows behind flower displays at the Empire Cannabis Club, Nov. 16, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

Swedish Ambassador in talks with Minister Thijsen in relation to his visit to Aruba

(The Hague)—Swedish Ambassador for the Dutch Kingdom, Heinz Edmund Walker, met with the Aruban Minister, Ady Thijsen, in relation to his next visit on the island.

Ambassador Walker visited Aruba and other countries of the Dutch Caribbean 4 years ago and is now interested in the current situation in Aruba. Minister Thijsen informed the Ambassador that tourism on Aruba is recovering well fol-

lowing the pandemic.

At the same time, Minister Thijsen said that the pandemic showed that Aruba needs to diversify its economy and come up with other economic pillars: "Tourism will remain an important economic sector for Aruba. The government is currently looking for opportunities for reopening the refinery, but if this does not succeed, there should be a consideration to establish other types of industries. Aruba

should also attract more European tourists in order to balance out the influx of American tourists on the island. It is for this reason that we are happy with the British Airways flights from London Gatwick that will start at the end of March," The Minister told Ambassador Walker.

The Minister mentioned as well that Aruba is trying to stimulate the agricultural sector in order to produce more fruits and vegetables



on the island, both for local markets and the hotels.

Ambassador Walker stated that he will be meeting with the Minister of Tourism,

Dangui Oduber, on Aruba. He thanked Minister Thijsen for the information he provided that would surely be useful for his visit to Aruba. □

The Rancho Foundation is setting up collaborations with the hope of establishing responsible and effective waste management

Last Wednesday, the Rancho Foundation brought up a few problems that are causing disturbance to the area of Rancho. With this, a project has been proposed in the effort to come up with solutions in the future.

Since 2018, president of the foundation, Clifford Rosa, stated that it appears that some things have gone right, while others have not, and that they are thankful for the period of Aruba Doet, in which neighborhoods were cleaned, and where the caulk oven was conserved for 'Monumentenfonds'.

Last year, they realized that maintaining the area of Rancho is hard to keep up with, seeing as there are constantly waste being thrown on the ground. They emphasized that the area needs a cleaning, especially since the closure of the waste facility at Parkietenbos.

Rosa further explained that they were approached by various organizations in Colombia that do recycle work. He mentioned that they have met a couple times to talk about the project and the waste problem that needs to be solved.

"Seeing as we want a program that will take us to the celebration of 200 years of Oranjestad in 2024, we want to make sure this neighborhood is complete-



ly clean," Rosa assured.

The foundation presented the project called "Waste Management for Rancho Oranjestad Aruba" in collaboration with the Colombia organization 'Quos', which specializes in the processing of both solid and liquid waste. The foundation wonders what could be possible in the processing of water.

"For the Rancho Foundation, this is a new initiative in the context of working with different organizations for different proposals, like national activities and investigations for the culture and the education of the Aruban culture, including the processing of waste and recycling."

At the same time, he pointed out that "we have a culture that is used to piling all kinds of waste together and that is a problem that is internationally frowned upon. It is incomprehensible how we put everything in one bag and throw

it away. That is the part that we want to educate the community about; the change of mindset towards a direction that is possible for all of us."

This is for the goal of reducing waste processing, seeing as Aruba already meets the international requirements. There are also goals for sustainable developments where they focus especially on goal number 17, "Collaboration": "At this moment we are asking to collaborate with companies and the media to spread information on what can be done and where we stand today in terms of waste management for Rancho and Aruba," Rosa commented.

Marcela Maria Sanchez, director of social responsibility at 'Quos' explained that they are experts in the treatment and reuse of solid Urban waste in Colombia. They came to Aruba to do an analysis of the situa-

tion concerning waste on the island; from those that start at home, the system of waste transport and the final processing.

"In our 6-year experience, we make end products with solid waste that arrive at waste facilities, and we would like to make a proposition for the reuse and transformation of products, which we are currently distributing in Colombia," she said.

The main message that they want to spread is that it is necessary to understand that solid waste is a part of every-day life, and that we as humans need to integrate them into our lives and not see them as the enemy. Instead, we should focus on how we can reuse and restore them and integrate them back into the chain of production by way of a circular economy with the aim for sustainable developments.

During this first visit, they were informed that they will be conducting analysis of documents and statistics with the help of companies, and their allies, Rancho. They calculate that they will have a preliminary proposal in about a month and a half.

The next step involves Aruban companies and government organizations traveling to Colombia in order to see Quos' plantations and operations they have

with the biggest public service company in Colombia, so they can "establish a plan, how to execute this plan, join forces and make use of the waste on the island," as Sanchez mentioned.

Plastic bottles are used to make threads for sowing shirts, shoes, or wood: "This is to change the view on plastic as the enemy. Instead, we should see it as a tool and convert this into something sustainable and reduce waste," Sanchez affirmed.

"Plastic waste bags can be reconverted into waste bags: "We produce them, they leave the factory and come back to the plantations with waste," she continued.

With this, they hope to reduce the impact that waste has and give support to the population that is vulnerable to these waste. Colombia has a history of conflict for more than 60 years, leaving many victims that work at the organization injured.

To finalize, the Rancho Foundation is interested to see this project be actualized with their partners on Aruba, like Plastic Beach Party. However, there are more organizations that already have the desire for progress, with whom the foundation will discuss in the upcoming weeks.

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San Nicolas and Oranjestad are the focus points during the Royal Visit

ORANJESTAD – His Majesty the King, Her Majesty the Queen Máxima, and Her Royal Highness the Princess of Orange will visit Aruba on January 30 and 31, 2023.

During these two days, the focus will be on San Nicolas and Oranjestad.

Program San Nicolas

On Monday, January 30, the Royal delegation and the Governor of Aruba, His Excellency Alfonso Boekhoudt, and State Secretary for Kingdom Relations, Mrs. Alexandra van Huffelen, will visit the district of San Nicolas to submerge themselves in the culture of San Nicolas.

Boy Ecury Tribute

Early in the afternoon, the schools in San Nicolas will have the opportunity to welcome the Royal delegation at 3:25 pm. At Filomena College Primary School and Filomena College Mavo, twill present the theatrical piece 'Op Zoek naar Boy', a collaboration with Colegio San Antonio, Filomena College, Muchila Creativo, Stichting Monumentenfonds Aruba, MBO Media College Amsterdam, and Stichting Cultuurgeneratie. Together with this presentation, they will focus on the mural of Boy Ecury a tribute to the young hero killed on November 6, 1944.

Visit the Museum of Industry

From Filomena College, the Royal delegation will walk on the piazza of the Saint Theresita Church towards



the Industrial Museum. Here they will be accompanied by the pupils of the primary school and artists under the direction of Mr. John Freddy Montoya and Mrs. Lupita Bernabela. At the Museum of Industry, the Aruban Museum Foundation will offer the Royal delegation explanation of the different economic developments in Aruba, as displayed throughout the museum.

San Nicolas Centre

From 4.15 pm, the Royal family will walk in the heart of San Nicolas to enjoy the different murals that decorate the buildings in the heart of San Nicolas. The last stop in San Nicolas is at the Nicolaas Store at 4:45 pm. Here the delegation

watched see a show created by Mr. Freddy Tromp to showcase the talent of the Aruban youth.

Cultural program Oranjestad

On January 31, the Royal delegation will continue to experience the rich and diverse Aruban culture. This event takes place at the Plaza Padu and will culminate at Fort Zoutman for the Bon Bini Festival.

Plaza Padu

The Royal delegation will arrive at 7:00 pm at the Plaza Padu, where a group of children will welcome them. Hereafter there will go to a market with a diversity of artisans displaying their work like jewelry, Rum, home products, candles,

sweets, and unique bags. Right after the market on the Plaza Padu, the Royal delegation will experience a spectacular production in the form of a dance and music show by well-known local artists. These include Chris Kross, Johnny Schaarbaai, Christopher Rudolfo, Denny Loefstop, Edjean Semeleer, Susjaira Kerpens, and ballerina Liselotte van Doorn.

Soon after follows a festive dance presentation by Club di Movimiento under the direction of Samantha Westera-Juppa, who will escort the Royal Family to the festivities at the Bon Bini Festival. The public can follow everything at the Bon Bini Festival through a live video feed displayed on a

big screen located on the Plaza Padu.

Bon Bini Festival:

The festivities continue at the Bon Bini Festival at 7:20 pm with a thorough presentation of Aruba's history and folklore. The Royal Visit will be conclude with a carnival parade and Brass Band that will accompany the Royal Family on their exit.

Special Invitation

The Royal Visit Commission is inviting the entire community to attend the festivities in San Nicolas and Oranjestad and be part of this Royal celebration. Come celebrate our island and diversity on January 30 and 31, 2022. □

Today Is Going To Be A Good Day

Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Nature Calls

The Arikok National park is

worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whip-



tail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle



snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website www.arubanationalpark.org

The Lighthouse

No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that

shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light. www.arubalighthouse.com will give you more information.

Kayak in the Mangroves

Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout -as it might get a little windy and rough-, you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. Its fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. There are several companies that offer kayak tours, we had good experience with The Shack Kayak Tours Aruba, find them on Facebook. □



Aruba was this year's host for the judicial four-party consultation in the Kingdom of the Netherlands



ORANJESTAD – This week, Aruba welcomed delegations from Curaçao, Sint Maarten and the Netherlands for the judicial four-party consultation, in order to create stronger bonds between the ministries of Justice within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in order to strengthen security at our borders.

of Justice and Security of the Netherlands, Mrs. Dilan Yeşilgöz-Zegerius, minister of Justice of Curaçao Mr. Shalten Hato, and minister of Justice of Sint Maarten, Mrs. Anna Richardson. Different topics were discussed regarding security and justice as well as the capacity for managing these.

On Tuesday the meetings at the official level took place, and Wednesday morning the meetings on the ministerial level started. During this meeting, minister of Justice and Social Affairs of Aruba, Mr. Rocco Tjon sat down with minister

There are different projects currently ongoing regarding Justice which received big investments from the Netherlands. For this reason it is very important for the islands to have sufficient capacity to execute these projects. Aside from this,

the past few months many interceptions were made – regarding irregularities at sea – and all numbers regarding these interceptions were presented. Here it was concluded that the strategy being executed in the kingdom is giving results. The ministers also discussed points of improvement for the policy plan for 2023.

Organized crime is a topic that often comes forward and is a priority for the Investigative Collaboration Team (RST), but it is also a priority for the Ministry of Justice and Social Affairs of Aruba, according to its policy plan, as was stated in a press release. The approach to organized crime is divided in different aspects, for example, information and intelligence is very important and for this reason, big investments are being made in this area, as well as in the aspect of security at our borders. It is thus an aspect that keeps coming forward, seeing that it has priority from the Netherlands but also from the countries in the Caribbean.

According to minister Tjon, it was a very good meeting between the four countries of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and they expect a lot more cooperation and positive results for the judicial chain. □



the new book of criminal procedure was discussed, and the contribution of Coast Guard and the Marechaussee were discussed. It is known that in



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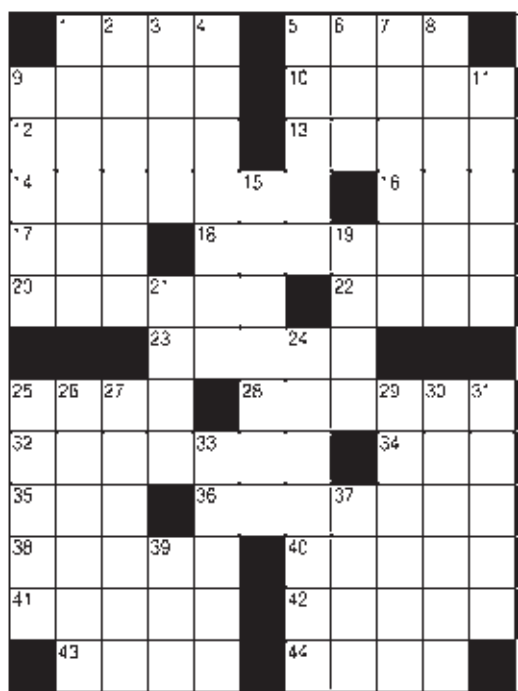
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 Rat's home
 - 1 Rugged rock
 - 5 Captain of flavor fiction
 - 9 Espresso layer
 - 10 Isaac's mother

- DOWN**
- 1 Neck-wear
 - 2 Fix
 - 3 From the U.S.
 - 4 Telescope pioneer
 - 5 Useful skill
 - 6 Bowler, e.g.
 - 7 Mideast area
 - 8 Malia's dad
 - 9 Smackers fodder
 - 11 Toast start
 - 15 Whim island
 - 19 Visitor to Oz
 - 21 Bus. sch. course
 - 24 Like type that doesn't fit
 - 25 Capital of Ghana
 - 26 Behind
 - 27 Quiz show
 - 29 Asian island
 - 30 Too much
 - 31 Plow pioneer
 - 33 Resort spots
 - 37 Designer Wang
 - 39 Pharaoh's symbol



Yesterday's answer



1-21

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-21

CRYPTOQUOTE

MNQ QNAXCHBKG PS PZ SMES
ANINXR ACCX QEPS E ZPADGC
VNVCAS ICBNIC ZSEHSPAD SN
PVUHNVC SMC QNHGX

— EAAC BHEAT

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LEAD FROM THE BACK — AND LET OTHERS BELIEVE THEY ARE IN FRONT. — NELSON MANDELA

Google axes 12,000 jobs, layoffs spread across tech sector

By KELVIN CHAN
AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — Google is laying off 12,000 workers, or about 6% of its workforce, becoming the latest tech company to trim staff as the economic boom that the industry rode during the COVID-19 pandemic ebbs.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai, who also leads its parent company Alphabet, informed staff Friday at the Silicon Valley giant about the cuts in an email that was also posted on the company's news blog. It is the company's biggest-ever round of layoffs and adds to tens of thousands of other job losses recently announced by Microsoft, Amazon, Facebook parent Meta and other tech companies as they tighten their belts amid a darkening outlook for the industry. Just this month, there have been at least 48,000 job cuts announced by major companies in the sector. "Over the past two years we've seen periods of dramatic growth," Pichai wrote. "To match and fuel that growth, we hired for a different economic reality than the one we face today."

He said the layoffs reflect a "rigorous review" carried out by Google of its operations.

The jobs being eliminated "cut across Alphabet, product areas, functions, levels and regions," Pichai said. He said he was "deeply sorry" for the layoffs. Regulatory filings illustrate how Google's workforce swelled during the pandemic, ballooning to nearly 187,000 people by late



The logo of Google is displayed on a carpet at the entrance hall of Google France in Paris, on Nov. 18, 2019.

Associated Press

last year from 119,000 at the end of 2019.

Pichai said that Google, founded nearly a quarter of a century ago, was "bound to go through difficult economic cycles."

"These are important moments to sharpen our focus, reengineer our cost base, and direct our talent and capital to our highest priorities," he wrote. He called out the company's investments in artificial intelligence as an area of opportunity.

There will be job cuts in the U.S. and in other unspecified countries, according to Pichai's letter.

Tech companies that "not long ago were the darlings of the stock market" have been forced to freeze hiring and cut jobs in preparation for an economic downturn, said a note from Victoria Scholar, an analyst with U.K.-based Interactive Investment.

"Digital spending is suffering, and ad revenues are falling with it," she wrote.

Just this week, Microsoft announced 10,000 job cuts, or nearly 5% of its workforce. Amazon said this month it is cutting 18,000 jobs, al-

though that's a fraction of its 1.5 million strong workforce, while business software maker Salesforce is laying off about 8,000 employees, or 10% of the total. Last fall Facebook parent Meta announced it would shed 11,000 positions, or 13% of its workers. Elon Musk slashed jobs at Twitter after he acquired the social media company last fall.

Those job cuts are hitting smaller players as well. U.K.-based cybersecurity firm Sophos laid off 450 employees, or 10% of its global workforce. Cryptocurrency trading platform Coinbase cut 20% of its workforce, about 950 jobs, in its second round of layoffs in less than a year.

Employment in the U.S. has been resilient despite signs of a slowing economy, and there were another 223,000 jobs added in December. Yet the tech sector grew exceptionally fast over the last several years due to increased demand as employees began to work remotely.

CEOs of a number of companies have taken blame for growing too fast, yet those same companies, even after the latest round of job cuts, remain much larger than they were before the economic boom from the pandemic began.

"I take full responsibility for the decisions that led us here," Pichai wrote. □

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Twinkle, twinkle fading stars: Hiding in our brighter skies

By CHRISTINA LARSON

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Every year, the night sky grows brighter, and the stars look dimmer.

A new study that analyzes data from more than 50,000 amateur stargazers finds that artificial lighting is making the night sky about 10% brighter each year.

That's a much faster rate of change than scientists had previously estimated looking at satellite data. The research, which includes data from 2011 to 2022, is published Thursday in the journal Science.

"We are losing, year by year, the possibility to see the stars," said Fabio Falchi, a physicist at the University of Santiago de Compostela, who was not involved in the study.

"If you can still see the dimmest stars, you are in a very dark place. But if you see only the brightest ones, you are in a very light-polluted place," he said.

As cities expand and put up more lights, "skyglow" or "artificial twilight," as the study authors call it, becomes more intense.

The 10% annual change "is a lot bigger than I expected something you'll notice clearly within a lifetime," said Christopher Kyba, a study co-author and physicist at the German Research Centre for Geosciences in Potsdam.

Kyba and his colleagues gave this example: A child is born where 250 stars are visible on a clear night. By the time that child turns 18, only 100 stars are still visible. "This is real pollution, affecting people and wildlife," said Kyba, who said he hoped that policymakers would do more to curb light pollution. Some localities have set limits.

The study data from amateur stargazers in the non-profit Globe at Night project was collected in a similar fashion. Volunteers look for the constellation Orion remember the three stars of his belt – and match what



Dave Cooke observes the Milky Way over a frozen fish sanctuary in central Ontario, north of Highway 36 in Kawartha Lakes, Ontario, Canada, early Sunday, March 21, 2021.

Associated Press

they see in the night sky to a series of charts showing an increasing number of surrounding stars.

Prior studies of artificial lighting, which used satellite images of the Earth at night, had estimated the annual increase in sky brightness to be about 2% a year.

But the satellites used aren't able to detect light with wavelengths toward the blue end of the spectrum including the light emitted by energy-efficient LED bulbs.

More than half of the new outdoor lights installed in the United States in the

past decade have been LED lights, according to the researchers.

The satellites are also better at detecting light that scatters upward, like a spotlight, than light that scatters horizontally, like the glow of an illuminated billboard at night, said Kyba.

Skyglow disrupts human circadian rhythms, as well as other forms of life, said Georgetown biologist Emily Williams, who was not part of the study.

"Migratory songbirds normally use starlight to orient where they are in the sky at night," she said. "And

when sea turtle babies hatch, they use light to orient toward the ocean light pollution is a huge deal for them." □



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NFL assistants balance playoff prep with job interviews

By JOSH DUBOW

AP Pro Football Writer

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) —

DeMeco Ryans' day as San Francisco defensive coordinator started with meetings and then went to the practice field as he focused on implementing a defense to slow down Dak Prescott and the Dallas Cowboys. Then instead of relaxing or diving into more film at night ahead of a key playoff showdown Sunday, Ryans shifted gears and went into job interview mode with an in-person meeting with the Denver Broncos about their head coaching job.

"With everything you do as a coach, you're trying to crunch a lot of things in," he said at his weekly news conference Thursday in between practice and his interview.

"You're trying to dissect a lot of information in a certain amount of time. So time management is a very crucial thing to have. I know I keep the main thing, the main thing, and the main thing this week is the Cowboys."

Ryans is one of several assistants still alive in the playoffs dealing with the delicate balance of preparing for the most important games of their careers with the most important job interviews.

Among the other assistants, who have interviewed or



San Francisco 49ers defensive coordinator DeMeco Ryans before an NFL football game against the Arizona Cardinals in Santa Clara, Calif., Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023.

Associated Press

been requested for interviews for head coaching jobs are Cowboys coordinators Dan Quinn and Kellen Moore; Giants coordinators Mike Kafka and Wink Martindale; Eagles coordinators Shane Steichen and Jonathan Gannon; Buffalo offensive coordinator Ken Dorsey; and Kansas City offensive coordinator Eric Benetiemy.

The NFL tweaked the rules this year, allowing for assistants who were in the wild-card round to do interviews the week of the divisional round in hopes that qualified candidates on teams

that make long postseason runs don't miss out on getting coveted head coaching jobs.

Many of the head coaches still alive dealt with similar challenges before getting their jobs. Giants coach Brian Daboll said it wasn't difficult to block out other job opportunities while coaching a team trying to reach the Super Bowl after going through it last year as Bills offensive coordinator.

"You work extremely hard to get to this spot," Daboll said. "All the work you put in in the offseason, the training camps, regular

season games, and now the first playoff game, as a professional, that's where all of your attention is."

After interviewing with the Broncos on Thursday night, Ryans was set to meet with the Texans on Friday. He also is expected to interview with the Carolina and Arizona during this process as he seeks his first head coaching job.

His Dallas counterpart, Quinn, is scheduled to interview Friday with Denver. Quinn interviewed with the Broncos last year before they hired Nathaniel Hackett, who was fired before

the end of his first season. Quinn said offseason preparation for interviews is important in helping keep the focus on his team's upcoming game.

"I interviewed during the playoffs years ago during my time in Seattle," said Quinn, who was hired by Atlanta in 2015 and led the Falcons to the Super Bowl in his second season. "That experience helped me make sure, 'Hey, your process had better be straight and organized as you're going.'"

"Back in the spring and summer, I had planned for us to be in the playoffs, so I planned for these conversations if I was fortunate enough to have them. I didn't want to have to do anything differently."

Ryans' boss Kyle Shanahan went through a similar process six years ago when he interviewed with San Francisco while going on a Super Bowl run as offensive coordinator in Atlanta. Shanahan's former offensive coordinator, Mike McDaniels, went through the job search last postseason and got hired by Miami, while former defensive coordinator Robert Saleh interviewed for head coaching jobs during the 2019 playoffs but didn't get hired until a year later. Shanahan is confident Ryans can balance the two tasks. □

Australian Olympic runner Bol tests positive for EPO

SYDNEY (AP) — Australian Olympic middle-distance runner and 2022 Commonwealth Games silver medalist Peter Bol has tested positive to a banned performance-enhancing drug. Athletics Australia said Friday that Bol, the national 800-meter record holder, failed an out-of-competition test on Oct. 11. The 28-year-old tested positive to the banned drug erythropoietin, known as EPO. "I am innocent and have not taken this substance as

I am accused," Bol said on Twitter.

Bol said his career hinged on the result of a B sample from the October test which would be known next month.

Athletics Australia provisionally suspended Bol from formal training and competition at any level, the organization's chief executive Peter Bromley said.

"There are procedural fairness and investigative considerations . . . at this point it would be inappropriate

for Athletics Australia or anyone else to speculate about the specific details or pre-empt any outcome," Bromley said in a statement.

Bol, who emigrated to Australia from Sudan with his family when he was eight years old, competed at the 2016 Rio Olympics and the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, when he placed fourth in the 800-meter final.

In Tokyo, Bol broke the Australian 800-meter record. He lowered that mark at



Peter Bol, of Australia, wins a men's 800-meter semifinal at the 2020 Summer Olympics, on Aug. 1, 2021, in Tokyo.

Associated Press

a Paris Diamond League meet in June of last year before claiming Com-

monwealth Games silver in Birmingham, England, in August. □

Korda of U.S. stops 2-time Australian Open runner-up Medvedev

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

AP Tennis Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Sebastian Korda comes by his athleticism and competitive instincts honestly. From Dad, the 1998 Australian Open champion. From Mom, also a former professional tennis player. And from two big sisters, both current golf pros.

Add in some mentorship from eight-time major champ Andre Agassi and a couple of coaches, including former player Radek Stepanek, and maybe it shouldn't be all that surprising that Korda, a 22-year-old American never past the fourth round at a Grand Slam tournament, would manage to eliminate two-time runner-up Daniil Medvedev at Melbourne Park. Korda's attacking brand of tennis carried him past No. 7-seeded Medvedev 7-6 (7), 6-3, 7-6 (4) in the Australian Open's third round Friday night, the latest in a string of victories by young men from the U.S. against top players this week.

"I always was told how good of a tennis player I can be. Now (I'm) just getting the right people around me, building a really solid team, just trusting the process," said the 29th-seeded Korda, who was the 2018 junior champion in Australia. "I'm growing as a person, as a player. Just trying to do the right things. Just have fun, enjoy it good things will happen."

This result comes on the heels of two other attention-grabbing victories by players from the U.S., whose



Sebastian Korda of the U.S. celebrates after defeating Daniil Medvedev of Russia in their third round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023.

men last won a Grand Slam title 20 years ago. On Wednesday, Mackenzie McDonald beat No. 1 seed Rafael Nadal. On Thursday, Jenson Brooksby beat No. 2 seed Casper Ruud. Now it was Korda's turn to add his name to the list with a game Medvedev described as "kind of different from everybody."

Medvedev won the U.S. Open two years ago and made it to the final in Australia in 2021, when he lost to Novak Djokovic, and 2022, when he lost to Nadal after holding a two-set lead. The Russian also was briefly ranked No. 1 last season. On this night in Rod Laver Arena, it was Korda who dictated most of the points, who put his shots right where he wanted

them, who charged forward with verve and slick volleys. He even threw in the occasional drop shot, for good measure.

He compiled nearly twice as many winners as Medvedev, 50-28, and won the point on 75% of his trips to the net, 36 of 48.

"I kind of knew what I had to do. I stuck with it, even when I was going up and down with the emotions," Korda said. How would he describe that game plan? "Just go for it," he said with a laugh. Korda broke Medvedev who said afterward his right wrist and forearm were bothering him the first time he served in each set. With the match a fraction longer than 2 1/2 hours old, Korda was serving while ahead 4-3, 40-15 in the third

set. So close to advancing. Five points away.

Right there, right then, is when Korda slipped up.

After Medvedev made it 40-30 with a forehand winner, Korda got a chance to hit a seemingly simple volley to take the game. But he missed, sending the ball too long. On the next point, he netted a forehand from the baseline, his sixth unforced error off that wing in the set six more than Medvedev at that moment. A netted backhand then completed the gift-wrapped break, and one love hold later, Medvedev had accumulated eight consecutive points to go up 5-4.

What appeared to be a turning point, though, turned out just to be a blip.

Associated Press

Korda raced to a 6-1 lead in the closing tiebreaker and, while he again needed to settle down after some missed chances, this time he ended things with a forehand winner.

He said he relied on a philosophy he picked up from his mother, Regina Rajchrtova: "Throughout this whole year, I haven't had one negative thought, whether it's waiting for transportation to go to the courts, whether it's eating lunch, whether it's doing anything. ... Kind of just having a new motto of: Positive energy is more positive than negative energy."

To reach his first Slam quarterfinal, Korda will need to defeat No. 10 Hubert Hurkacz on Sunday. That day's other men's matches: Stefanos Tsitsipas vs. Jannik Sinner, Felix Auger-Aliassime vs. Jiri Lehecka, and Karen Khachanov vs. Yoshihito Nishioka. Nishioka was a 7-6 (6), 6-3, 6-2 winner over McDonald, while another one of the eight U.S. men to reach the third round was sent home when Khachanov topped No. 16 Frances Tiafoe 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (9). The women's upcoming fourth-round matches: Iga Swiatek vs. Elena Rybakina, Jessica Pegula vs. Barbora Krejickova, Coco Gauff vs. Jelena Ostapenko, and Victoria Azarenka vs. Zhu Lin.

As well as Pegula is playing, dropping zero sets and just 11 games total along the way to Week 2, you might think she'd be completely pleased with how things are going. □



Pittsburgh Pirates' Andrew McCutchen hits his 200th career home run during the first inning of a baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers, Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2017, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

Andrew McCutchen returns to Pirates on \$5m, 1-year deal

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Andrew McCutchen is back where he once belonged.












The five-time All-Star centerfielder finalized a \$5 million, one-year deal to return to the Pittsburgh Pirates on Friday, nearly five years to the day after Pittsburgh sent him to San Francisco in a cost-cutting measure.

McCutchen served as the centerpiece for Pittsburgh's brief return to contention nearly a decade ago. He won the National League's MVP Award in 2013, a season that marked the start of a three-year run in which the Pirates reached the playoffs as a wild card. The 36-year-old has

bounced around professionally since being traded to San Francisco but has maintained a home in Pittsburgh.

He spent 2022 with Milwaukee, hitting .237 with 17 home runs and 69 RBIs. The Pirates planned to introduce McCutchen later Friday. □

Weekly SPECIALS

<p>WAS \$6.85</p> <p>\$5.14</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Asparagus STD</p>	<p>WAS \$3.71</p> <p>\$3.42</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Blueberries 6oz</p>	<p>WAS \$12.70</p> <p>\$10.28</p> <p>Per KG</p>  <p>Roastbeef Brasil</p>	<p>WAS \$8.03</p> <p>\$6.28</p> <p>Per KG</p>  <p>U.S. Boneless Porkloin</p>	
<p>WAS \$1.73</p> <p>\$1.31</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Avocado Hass</p>	<p>WAS \$2.07</p> <p>\$1.91</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Carrot Mini Peeled 1 lb</p>	<p>WAS \$10.39</p> <p>\$8.57</p> <p>Per KG</p>  <p>Chicken Cutlet India</p>	<p>WAS \$3.99</p> <p>\$2.85</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Panamei Mussel Black WHL CKD W/P RTL 1LB</p>	<p>WAS \$2.30</p> <p>\$1.88</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Gwoon Witte Wijnazijn 500MLT</p>
<p>WAS \$5.07</p> <p>\$3.42</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Roomboter Amandelstaaf</p>	<p>WAS \$10.74</p> <p>\$9.59</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Quaker Oats Old Fashioned 42oz</p>	<p>WAS \$7.25</p> <p>\$6.28</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Kellogg's Corn Pops Cereal 10oz</p>	<p>WAS \$1.90</p> <p>\$1.54</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Bollente Echte Beschuit 13ST</p>	<p>WAS \$7.25</p> <p>\$6.28</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Nabisco Oreo Golden Cookies 14.3oz</p>
<p>DAIRY/FROZEN</p> <p>WAS \$2.85</p> <p>\$2.57</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Nesquik Lowfat Assorted Flavors 14oz</p> <p>WAS \$1.71</p> <p>\$1.14</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Gwoon Boerenkool DB 450gr</p>	<p>HBC/GM</p> <p>WAS \$3.86</p> <p>\$2.85</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Colgate Toothpaste Sparkling White Mint Zing 4oz</p> <p>WAS \$5.19</p> <p>\$4.39</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Onion & Potato Bags Asst</p>	<p>DELI/BAKERY</p> <p>WAS \$1.88</p> <p>\$1.65</p> <p>100 GR</p>  <p>Queso Blanco Duro</p> <p>WAS \$1.84</p> <p>\$1.42</p> <p>100 GR</p>  <p>Mortadella W/ Pistachio</p>		

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